



Participants in the 2018 Water Walk at the Newark reservoir.

*I used to use a donkey to walk 10km to get water every day. Thanks to the support of people like you, my life has improved. I now have easy access to clean water.*

Gladys Leyian  
Secretary, Noosidan Deep Well Committee

Transforming over 50,000 lives every day

## WATER IS LIFE KENYA

# Staying CONNECTED

SUMMER 2018

### Message from the Director Kenyan visitors in the land of plenty

While hosting Dorcas Mutero, a teacher from Kenya, and my Kenyan co-founder, Joseph Larasha, I tried to see my homeland through their eyes.

What could they be thinking, feeling, being in the US for the first time?



I reflected on my own travels... even a simple thing like breakfast. We look for comfort, not experimentation first thing in the morning.

I knew Dorcas and Larasha had many new experiences ahead including giving talks in English and meeting many new people. What I didn't think about were the things we take for granted: getting used to flush toilets, sinks with hot and cold water, and stoves with 4 burners.

I had the idea that if breakfast was good and comfortable, the rest of the day would go more smoothly! The winning breakfast turned out to be coffee with honey and porridge with apples, raisins and... more honey! It set us up for the day and successfully launched us on our adventures and to ace the big challenges.

Did you know both Dorcas and Larasha gave Tedx Talks? Click on the "Liked Videos" link on our **Water is Life Kenya** YouTube channel to view them.

*Thanks for your ongoing support, Joyce Tannian*

### PLAN ON IT!

#### Thirst Reverse V

Wednesday, October 3, 2018

Mark your calendar to have lunch or dinner with us at Iron Hill Brewery on Main St. in Newark, DE. Twenty percent of your meal will be donated to **Water is Life Kenya**. For the first time, Iron Hill is crafting a custom beer for us. One dollar of every pint sold will go to helping our mission. As an added bonus, Joyce will be here and we'll have our beaded handicrafts available for purchase. Download the 20% coupon located on our website or bring the postcard you'll receive in September.

### Our beautiful handicrafts are available year round

Did you know you can buy **Water is Life** Beaded Handicrafts both online year round and at our warehouse sale during the holiday season? Visit our website for details.

[www.waterislifebeads.com](http://www.waterislifebeads.com)

## Imurtot Primary School Rainwater Catchment System in Place and Running

Thanks to the time and unique skills of members of the Newark Delaware Professional Chapter of Engineers Without Borders (EWB), clean water for the children at Kenya's Imurtot Primary School is now a reality.



The EWB team takes a well deserved break. Andrew, Ranjit, Kim, Tad and John.

This past Spring five EWB members made the second trip to Kenya. Working with **Water is Life Kenya**, the engineers installed a rainwater harvesting system on two school buildings, including gutters, downspouts, and six water storage tanks.

Just after the team returned to the US, rains began at Imurtot and in only a few weeks, all six tanks (approx. 19,000 liters) were full and being used by the students.

Water is Life Kenya's 11 years of experience working in the area allowed trust between EWB and the community to be established easily. In addition, work moved quickly because of our long term relationships with crafts people and suppliers. We are grateful for the strength of our partnership with EWB, which has brought forth the Imurtot Primary School rainwater harvesting system. Now Imurtot Primary School students can focus on their education without wondering where they'll get clean drinking water.



Dorcas Mutero giving her TEDx talk "Education has no age."

## Through the eyes of those we've helped

Joseph Larasha, co-founder of **Water is Life Kenya**, and Dorcas Mutero, a school teacher from Kenya and one of the first to benefit from a well we dug, spent 5 weeks with us this Spring. Larasha and Dorcas came to the US to give a TEDx (Ideas Worth Spreading) talk and to support us on our annual Water Walk and other events. Visit the "Liked video" link on our YouTube channel to view them. Larasha's talk, "How I learned confidence from a lion" is amazing. Dorcas' story, "Education has no age" is inspiring.

A 7th grade Sanford student described the impact of their visit as follows. "I didn't get it until I heard Dorcas' story. That women can spend every day from dawn to dark doing one thing, getting water. We need to help them have water."



### Larasha and Dorcas Trip Highlights

**What they loved most about the US:** green grass everywhere and imagining how happy and full their livestock would be in such a place.

**Surprising observations:** The US is not just big cities, it has vast areas of countryside and people eat a lot of sweets.

**Larasha's favorite things:** pancakes, the rodeo, The White House, the "Singing Water" fountain show at Longwood Gardens, hamburgers, and chicken fajitas.

**Dorcas' favorite things:** bread, french fries, the "Singing Water" show, cute baby clothes, taps with hot and cold water, and the friendliness of people.

Did you meet Dorcas or Larasha? Please consider making a donation in their honor.

[www.waterislifekenya.com](http://www.waterislifekenya.com)



*Asante Sana!*  
(Thank you very much in Swahili)

## Training for Sustainability

### Report: Water Management Committees

This spring we invested time and money to train the management committees of our nine deep well projects.

We covered topics like setting water prices, budgeting, record keeping, and conflict resolution.

We then moved out of the classroom into the field for a hands-on diesel generator operation maintenance and troubleshooting session. The Lenkiloriti borehole committee hosted us and proudly showed off their well-



Members of the nine water management committees met as a group to discuss setting fair and appropriate prices and how they can collect enough revenue to maintain the wells and avoid service interruptions.

maintained, clean generator and generator house.

When **Water is Life Kenya** hands over projects to the community after completing the drilling, equipping and construction works, we train our water management committees. As projects evolve, however, committee mem-

bers move on, so there is need to train again. In addition, our new projects committees needed review of key lessons.

— Joseph Larasha and Joyce Tannian

# A season to cheer about

Report: Livestock as a Business (LAB)

Finally. Southern Kenya had ample rain during the past long rainy season and our LAB Livestock Farmer Groups profited nicely. Nine groups took the \$2000 livestock loan we offer through our Livestock as a Business program and bought an average of 10 cattle each for fattening.



Abundant pastures, **Water is Life Kenya** sponsored water points, indigenous livestock rearing knowledge, plus the skills learned in our LAB program equipped Maasai farmers with what they needed to have fat, healthy, market-ready cattle. Farmers surveyed the livestock market in advance, budgeted how to use the loan money, controlled expenses, and attempted to prevent livestock diseases, applying what they learned.

Then, each group sold their cows and repaid their loans. One of the goals of the August loan review seminar will be to have the full records compiled showing the net profit earned by each group. We are anticipating between 30% - 45% net profit. The groups will also have the opportunity to recognize successes and address challenges they may have faced. We will all learn from each other. - **Joyce Tannian and Joseph Larasha**

## A great day for a water walk

At our annual Water Walk people of all shapes and sizes came out on a glorious day to support the millions of women and girls who walk everyday for water.

This year we were honored to have Joseph Larasha and Dorcas Mutero join us from Kenya. Participants had the opportunity to meet and talk with them and hear their stories. Hearing from Dorcas about the daily struggles she faced getting water before her community got their well was heart wrenching.

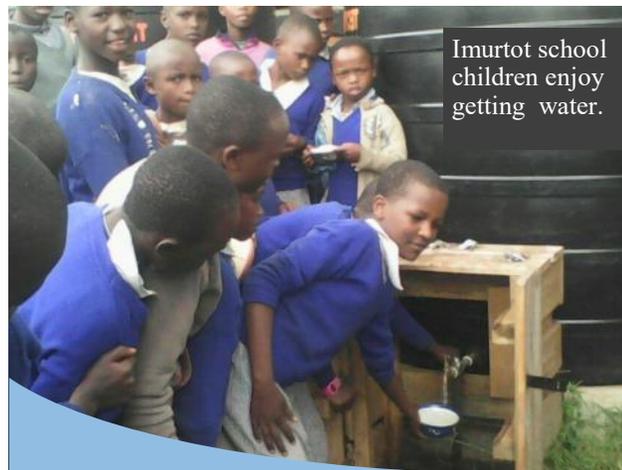


This year we are raising money for Phase II of our Kuku water project. Now

that the rains have ended we have started the work and everything will be completed by our next newsletter.

The people of Kuku are so excited to start having easy access to clean water the women and men themselves moved stones and improved the road so delivery trucks can reach the site easily.

We are close to reaching our \$25,000 goal. Please donate so we can call the 2018 Water Walk another success.



Imurtot school children enjoy getting water.

# 5

little known facts about

## what we do

### **\$30 can save a life**

The \$1,626,732 raised by **Water is Life Kenya** since 2007 has resulted in 50,000+ lives and tens of thousands of livestock being impacted daily by clean water at an average cost of \$30 per person.

### **Reduce the walking time to get clean water**

The walk to water was reduced by 10 miles one-way in Meshenani when **Water is Life Kenya** connected the villages to piped water from a national park.

### **Give children a chance to be healthy**

In Enkong'u Narok, the use of a **Water is Life Kenya** clean water well caused a 90% reduction in deaths of small children from malaria.

### **Help family incomes increase**

Clean water caused a 20% increase in the value of family livestock assets due to improved body condition and a reduction in livestock diseases.

### **Help livestock survive droughts**

Cattle losses for Livestock as a Business members were 40% lower than for non-members during the 2016-2018 drought.

Please  
**DONATE**

Text-to-Give at **(302)449-7349**

or visit our website at **[www.waterislifekenya.com](http://www.waterislifekenya.com)**

# Preparing for the next drought: a success story

Oloirien Chairlady, Margrate Lesinko, proudly showed off her hay bales to **Water is Life Kenya** Program Assistant, Veronica Simaloi, in May. Veronica visited her when she was monitoring the condition of the Oloirien Group Cows. Margrate has been working together with her husband to conserve and store pastures, just as they had been instructed during **Water is Life Kenya** LAB trainings back in October.



Margrate is providing an important example of drought preparedness for her group members and for her neighbors in Imbirikani. We are proud of her. She is leading by example.



Joyce, Larasha, Dorcas, PJ Simmon and Colleen at the 2018 Water Walk.

## Get involved. We can use the help.

We are a small but mighty team with a very worthwhile mission. We've accomplished a lot since we began. Your gifts of time and money help us continue to provide life giving clean water and more.

This year's budget is \$293,000. The more money we raise, the more good we can do. By becoming a sustaining donor you can help us have a revenue stream we can count on which reduces our fundraising costs. It's simple. Choose the amount you want to give each month. You can increase, decrease or stop your gift at any time. Become a **Water is Life Kenya** sustaining donor today.

Looking to donate your time? We are looking for volunteers to help in the office and help staff events and more. We need you. We want you on our team. We can't wait to hear from you. — Colleen Leithren, US Program Director



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